

Oscar Hernandez
Director, Risk Assessment Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Experience

DIRECTOR, RISK ASSESSMENT DIVISION (RAD), EPA

1999 - PRESENT

- Supervising four branch chiefs in managing and providing scientific expertise support to implement activities pertaining to the hazard and risk assessment of new and existing chemicals and microorganisms for regulatory and non-regulatory programs.
- Responsibilities include budget development, personnel recruitment, enhancing test guidelines, continued development of RAD's risk assessment tools.
- Focused on implementing the High Production Volume (HPV) Challenge program, the Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program, and persistent bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) chemicals.
- Legislative authority for activities flows from the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA), Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and the Pollution Prevention Act (PPA)
- Provided oversight to special review of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and development of the draft risk assessment.

ASSOCIATE DIVISION DIRECTOR (RAD)

1997 - 1999

- Supported the Division Director for the Risk Assessment Division
- Became Acting Division Director on March 30, 1998.
- Shared with Division Director the responsibility for assessment conclusions and recommendations under the New Chemicals program.

Chief, Risk Analysis Branch (RAB), EPA

1990 - 1997

- Supervisor for a multidisciplinary group of 21 staff representing a spectrum of expertise, skill levels and functions that were used in chemical screening and risk assessment.
- Provided leadership, scientific direction, and management supervision in the implementation of risk assessment program to support risk management and risk reduction activities.
- Managed three section chiefs.
- A major focus was the management and implementation of the TSCA § 8(e) program.
- Also responsible for the management for the Screening Information Data Set (SIDS), an international program under the auspices of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
- Successfully completed a revision of the cancer risk assessment of formaldehyde and presented the work to EPA's Science Advisory Board.

Senior Chemist, Health and Environmental Review Division, OTS, EPA

1988 - 1990

- Provided scientific expertise in the areas of metabolism and pharmacokinetics in support of hazard and risk assessment activities in the Office of Toxic Substances (OTS).
- Served a Co-Chair of the Structure Activity Team (SAT) that consisted of a team of scientists who predicted the potential hazard and environmental behavior of chemicals submitted to OTS under the New Chemicals Program.
- Selected as special assistant to Division Director to advise him on issues pertaining to risk assessment and science policy in the context of TSCA § 4 chemical testing program.

Environmental Systems Scientist, The MITRE Corporation

1987 - 1988

- Conducted health and risk assessment for government clients.
- Responsible for coordinating and quality control of the work of seven other scientists.

Senior Associate, ICF-Clement Inc.

1986 - 1987

- Conducted health hazard and risk assessments for both government and private sector clients.

Chemist, Health Effects Review Division, EPA

1984 - 1986

- Worked in the Office of Toxic Substance and Office of Pesticides Programs. Contributed to the development of EPA's Guidelines for Applicator Exposure Monitoring and to the pharmacokinetics section of the Agency's risk assessment of dichloromethane.

Senior Fellow, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

1977 - 1984

- Group Leader, Bioorganic Chemistry Group, Laboratory of Molecular Biology.
- Directed group of seven scientists in research activities in the area mechanisms of biological reactions with an emphasis on detoxification and toxication mechanisms of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons.
- Research significantly expanded basic understanding of the role of glutathione mediate detoxication reactions in the modulation of chemical carcinogens associated with epoxide metabolite.
- Awarded U.S. Patent (No. 4,256,646) for methods to synthesize biologically active intermediates.

Post-Doctoral Fellow, National Institutes of Health

1974-1976

- Research on chemical mechanisms of carcinogenesis of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons.

Education

PhD in Chemistry - University of Virginia - in 1974

Bachelors of Science in Chemistry – Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico - in 1970